

ADE DAILY NEWS CLIPS

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District board is meeting with WYC (Paris Express)

Officials with the Western Yell County School District will meet with the Paris School District Board tonight.

Paris School Superintendent Wayne Fawcett described the meeting as chance to have a conversation with Western Yell officials after the district was placed on fiscal distress by the Arkansas Department of Education because of declining bank balances.

The district been placed on fiscal distress for two years. The district was placed on the fiscal distress list during the 2011-12 school year.

The meeting will take place at 6 p.m. in the board room on the campus of Paris Middle School. The meeting is open to the public.

"We're basically going to have a conversation," Fawcett said.

"We need to find out what they desire from us in a possible annexation. It's going to be listening and fact-finding," Fawcett said.

At a January meeting of the WYC board, Jeremy Lasiter of the Department of Education explained if WYC does not recover from fiscal distress within the time given, they will be forced to either merge with another school for annexation or consolidate with another school district.

Fawcett and officials from the Magazine and Danville districts were at that meeting.

"We attended to listen to the presentation from ADE," Fawcett said. "We attended at Western Yell's invitation. We just listened."

WYV officials are meeting with districts which border WYC. The Paris district has a border on its south and southwest with WYC. In late January, WYC officials met with the Magazine School Board because the Magazine District borders Western Yell County. A meeting with the Danville board is expected in the future.

"From our district there are really only two ways to get to the Western Yell School District," Fawcett said. "Go over Highway 309 over Mount Magazine or go Highway 10 and then over Highway 309, which goes right through Magazine."

Although Fawcett and the Paris board will listen and ask question, don't expect a decision right away.

"I don't know that we can tell them what we could do," Fawcett said. I'd have to sit down and look at their financials, their assets and liabilities. Then, I'd have to talk with our board."

Fawcett added that even though WYC is on fiscal distress for two years, that could change at any time.

"They've got two years to turn it around, but if the situation goes south, the state can step in at any time," Fawcett said. "So, they've asked to meet with us and we're going to be a good neighbor."

Cops Boost Security at Arkansas School District (KLRT, Fox 16)

Bentonville Police officers are stepping up security patrols on school campuses.

The department decided to start visiting every school in the district after the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary.

"They really formed a bond with the police officers, they'll come up to them at breakfast and talk to them," said Marisa Shofner, a counselor at Ruth Hale Barker Middle School.

The officers offer a friendly smile and a welcome handshake, but they are creating peace of mind.

"Our goal was to have about 8 to 10 quality school visits a day....A brief patrol around the school itself on the way in and on the way out, and then anything we can do to verify that the doors that should be locked are locked... Take a look around, look for anything that might be out of place," said Chief Jon Simpson, with the Bentonville Police Department.

Simpson believes the program has been a success so far.

"We've done very well and in some cases exceeded that goal and had up to 60 visits in one week."

So aside from patrolling the hallways, officers will soon be implementing phase two.

"We're going to ask them to get into the school and to take a minute to either deliver some kind of safety or good choices type message."

It is a simple way to build even stronger relationships, and Shofner sees the impact first-hand.

"Some of the parents come to eat lunch with them, and they see police officers walking through. It's made them feel much safer for their kids being at school."

Uniformed officers, giving a sense of security and acting as extra eyes and ears for every school in the district.

"This is just an extra presence for staff students and parents to feel like their kids are in a safe place."

AR Elementary School Teacher Fired Over Pornographic Images (KARK, Channel 4) *Video available at http://arkansasmatters.com/fulltext?nxd_id=635692*

An Woodlawn School District teacher lost her job Thursday evening after students reported seeing pornographic images on her computer.

District Superintendent Billy Williams recommended the school board terminate 6th grade teacher Kcristii Record for having pornographic photos on her school issued desktop and iPad.

Parents say they went to school district and state board of education leaders asking them to investigate when their kids told them they saw pictures of naked ladies in Mrs. Record's class.

The superintendent says the first incident occurred in November 2012 when Record's husband reportedly called students over to check out nude pictures on her iPad during an after-school teaching session.

The second time he says Record admitted to stumbling upon the photos in class and deleting them, one by one. Parents argue she did not do enough to prevent students from seeing them.

"For a teacher to expose him to that when I try hard to keep him from that, it upsets me," a parent said outside of the meeting.

Record claims she doesn't know where the photos came from and she only discovered and deleted pictures of women in bikinis, not fully naked, pornographic images. But a district tech expert wiped her hard drive and found evidence of deleted graphic images there and in her Dropbox account.

Record confirmed she had possession of the computer for four years and the superintendent says she violated policy by allowing someone else to possibly access her school issued equipment and download the pictures.

The school board spent nearly three hours in executive session before voting to terminate Record.
